L
E
AND
SOCIAL COUNCIL

GENERAL

E/ESCAP/STAT.6/7
27 September 1985

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

Committee on Statistics

Sixth session
19-25 November 1985
Bangkok

DEVELOPMENT OF OVERALL NATIONAL STATISTICAL CAPABILITIES

(Item 5 of the provisional agenda)

REPORT OF THE SEMINAR ON THE ORGANIZATION OF STATISTICAL WORK IN A CHANGING ENVIRONMENT

Note by the secretariat

CONTENTS

		Page
I.	Organization of the Seminar	1
II.	Organization of statistics in the USSR at present	4
III.	Review of statistical organization and data collection and processing systems in the countries of the ESCAP region	6
IV.	Emerging statistical needs through technological changes	12
V.	Interrelationship between national statistical offices, planning bodies and other organizations	17
VI.	Organization of agricultural statistics	19
VII.	Methods used to ensure the reliability of statistical data	20
VIII.	Social and economic surveys in the USSR	21
IX.	Provision of the local administrative bodies with statistical information using modern techniques of data collection and processing	23
X.	Automated processing of statistical information under present conditions	24
XI.	Organization of environment statistics	26
XII.	Adoption of the report	27
Annex.	List of documents	28

I. ORGANIZATION OF THE SEMINAR

1. The Seminar on the Organization of Statistical Work in a Changing Environment was held in Moscow, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, from 26 September to 5 October 1984. It was organized by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) and financed through the United Nations regular programme for technical co-operation. The Government of the USSR, through its Central Statistical Board, arranged facilities for the holding of the Seminar.

Attendance

2. The Seminar was attended by participants from the following member countries of ESCAP: Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, China, India, Islamic Republic of Iran, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Mongolia, Nepal, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and United States of America. A representative of the United Nations Statistical Office attended. The Council for Mutual Economic Assistance (CMEA) was also represented.

Officers

3. The Seminar elected Mr. G.A. Manasov (USSR) as Chairman, Mr. Hyung-Cheull Kim (Republic of Korea) and Mr. Yue Wei (China) as Vice-Chairmen, and Mr. P.P. Sangal (India) as Rapporteur. Mr. Andrew J. Flatt of ESCAP acted as Director of the Seminar.

Opening statements

4. The Seminar was inaugurated by Mr. V.S. Kudinov, Deputy Chairman of the Central Statistical Board. In his address, he emphasized the very important function that statistics fulfilled for planning and policy-making purposes. Within the context of supporting co-operation between countries having different social systems, the USSR Government through its Central Statistical Board had been co-operating extensively in the activities of the United Nations Statistical Commission, as well as in those of regional bodies such as ESCAP which were providing technical assistance to the developing countries of the region. Regarding the current Seminar, the Board had gathered much experience over the past 66 years in organizing statistical work under changing circumstances, and was ready to share that expertise. At the same time, it was also interested to learn of the efforts of the developing countries of the ESCAP region to respond to the challenges of a rapidly changing statistical environment. Mr. Kudinov recalled the success of previous statistical seminars held in the Soviet Union, and expressed confidence that the current Seminar would

/similarly

similarly make a sizeable contribution to improving statistical work in developing countries.

5. Mr. R.V. Issinsky, Department for Technical Assistance to the United Nations of the State Committee for External Economic Relations, briefly described the role of his Committee in co-ordinating the activities of Soviet organizations in the field of technical assistance. As far as relations with ESCAP were concerned, activity had never been higher; the Seminar was the fifth ESCAP function to be held in the USSR in 1984. The Central Statistical Board had made all arrangements for the Seminar, but Mr. Issinsky hoped that during their stay in the USSR participants would not confine themselves entirely to technical aspects and would have the opportunity to learn something of the country and its people.

6. In his message, the Executive Secretary of ESCAP noted that the rapidly increasing demand for data at all levels of government coincided with the emergence of new technologies for processing information. That created opportunities for, and attendant difficulties in supplementing data from conventional sources by administrative and other records. Close co-ordination and technical co-operation between statistical offices and other agencies were therefore needed. The national statistical system had also to respond to the needs for data in subnational and smaller geographic areas, as well as maintain the quality of statistical data. He noted that those and other features of the rapidly changing environment in which statisticians worked formed the subject-matter of the Seminar, to which the USSR, the United Nations Statistical Office and CMEA were all contributing their expertise. He felt confident that the Seminar's conclusions and recommendations would assist the developing member countries of ESCAP in meeting the growing demands for information in an environment of changing technology.

7. The Seminar adopted the following agenda:

1. Opening of the Seminar.
2. Election of officers.
3. Adoption of the agenda.
4. Organization of statistics in the USSR at present.
5. Review of statistical organization and data collection and processing systems in the countries of the ESCAP region.
6. Emerging statistical needs through technological changes.

7. Interrelationship between national statistical offices, planning bodies and other organizations.

8. Organization of agricultural statistics.

9. Methods used to ensure the reliability of statistical data.

10. Social and economic surveys in the USSR.

11. Provision of the local administrative bodies with statistical information using modern techniques of data collection and processing.

12. Automated processing of statistical information under present conditions.

13. Organization of environment statistics.

14. Adoption of the report.

8. A list of the documents submitted to the Seminar is annexed to the present report.

9. The Seminar was informed of the statistical work of CMEA through an information note (STAT/SWCE/CRP.15) which described the activities of the CMEA Standing Commission on Co-operation in Statistics. CMEA had been founded in 1949 and now comprised 10 socialist countries; the Standing Commission dated from 1962, and its establishment marked a shift to more efficient co-operation in statistical work among CMEA member countries. It had adopted over 100 recommendations covering practically all aspects of statistics and aimed at enhancing the comparability of the data produced. In recent years international comparisons of cost indicators in CMEA countries had become a major element of work. In the field of technical co-operation, CMEA was currently providing assistance in various forms to three members, including Mongolia and Viet Nam.

10. The representative of the CMEA secretariat explained that because the CMEA standard classifications differed from those of the United Nations, work had been done on conversion keys in conjunction with the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) and other bodies. CMEA was keeping the United Nations Statistical Office informed of revisions in the System of Balances of the National Economy, and work was being done on links between that System and the United Nations System of National Accounts (SNA). The Seminar welcomed the fact that such joint efforts were improving the comparability of statistics of centrally planned and market economies.

11. In the course of the Seminar, a trip was organized to Minsk, where participants visited the Central Statistical Board of the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic and learnt of its work. The discussions in Minsk are summarized in section IX of the present report.

12. At the conclusion of the Seminar, participants expressed their grateful thanks and appreciation to the USSR authorities, especially the staff of the Central Statistical Board. Their hard work in organizing and servicing the Seminar had without doubt contributed greatly to its success.

II. ORGANIZATION OF STATISTICS IN THE USSR AT PRESENT

(Item 4 of the agenda)

13. The Seminar considered the item on the basis of the document entitled "Organization of State statistics in the USSR" (STAT/SWCE/1), presented by Mr. V.S. Kudinov. The report described the organizational structure of the USSR statistical system which comprised four levels - Union, republic, region and district. The activities of state statistical bodies, as well as accounting and statistical functions in the country as a whole, were carried out under the centralized guidance of the Central Statistical Board of the USSR. The Board was organized into subject-matter departments and had under its control organizations responsible for electronic data processing and for research and development in statistical theory and methodology. The paper detailed the many functions of the Board, including the establishment and operation of the automated system of state statistics.

14. The system of statistical data collection, processing and analysis in the USSR was described. The Board annually worked out and approved a plan of statistical activities for the entire state statistics system, and also approved schedules for submission of statistical information to policy and decision makers. Long-term (five-year) plans of statistical activities were also made. The very close interrelationship between statistics and planning at all levels in the USSR was emphasized; statistics were a prerequisite for the drafting of plans and for establishing routine control over their implementation. Much attention was given to the question of timeliness in the presentation of statistical and accounting information on the fulfilment of plan targets, as well as to its completeness and accuracy.

15. In planning and statistics, considerable importance was attached to the computation of indicators. A unified system of national economic development indicators used in both planning and statistics had been established; the

methodology of their determination and their interpretation had been jointly agreed on by statisticians and planners. Overall, statisticians played an active role in the different stages of the planning process.

16. The document also described the scientific basis on which USSR state statistics were founded, and in particular the establishment of a system of indicators covering such areas as population, labour and manpower, natural resources and the environment, and so on. Measures ensuring the reliability of statistical data were also described, and it was mentioned that the subject would be taken up under a separate agenda item.

17. In responding to participants' questions, Mr. Kudinov emphasized the importance of training statistical personnel and mentioned that in order to enhance communication between economists and statisticians on the one hand, and data processing personnel on the other, a group of persons was being trained in both those disciplines simultaneously. The rapidity with which the preliminary population census results had been published was pointed out. As regards the socio-demographic survey planned for January 1985, the Central Statistical Board was in charge of the practical aspects and the final choice of questions would be made by the Board in consultation with other organizations concerned.

18. It was pointed out that in the USSR there was no concept of "government statistics": the concept was rather one of "state statistics". Further details were provided on the unified system of indicators, including the ways in which information on them was disseminated - in some cases through radio and television. Non-response, which posed major difficulties in surveys in several countries of the ESCAP region, was not a problem in the USSR. Participation in surveys such as family budget surveys was on a voluntary basis, while enterprises and organizations were obliged by law to submit reports, on pain of administrative measures and fines; furthermore, the timely submission of accurate reports formed part of the overall performance evaluation of enterprises and hence the allocation to them of resources.

/III.

III. REVIEW OF STATISTICAL ORGANIZATION AND DATA COLLECTION AND PROCESSING SYSTEMS IN THE COUNTRIES OF THE ESCAP REGION

(Item 5 of the agenda)

19. Under item 5, all participating countries of the ESCAP region presented papers (STAT/SWCE/CRP.1-14) describing their statistical systems. A very brief description of those systems follows.

20. All statistical activities of Afghanistan were based on centralized principles, the central body being the Central Statistics Office. Provincial-level offices collected data on various socio-economic sectors, summarized them and sent them to that office. Other departments and institutions had statistical offices which recorded the data necessary for their own development plans and submitted them to the Central Statistical Office which summarized those data and submitted them in turn to the planning authorities, and also published them quarterly and yearly in the statistical yearbook. The Office possessed computerized data processing facilities and currently data collected through most of the surveys and censuses and econometric data were processed by computer. A separate department, however, existed for the collection of agricultural statistics. A nationwide census of agriculture was being planned with the assistance of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, some of the preliminary work had already been completed.

21. Bangladesh had followed a centralized statistical system since 1975. All major censuses and many nationwide sample surveys, including household income and expenditure surveys, were conducted by the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics. The Bureau also processed the foreign trade statistics of Bangladesh and prepared the national income and expenditure accounts. In order to meet the increasing demand for statistics, especially at the micro level, the Bureau had established a comprehensive system of data collection, processing and dissemination. With the establishment of a fourth generation computer and modern data entry system, data processing services had improved substantially. The Bureau's own printing facilities had expedited publication of statistical reports. The National Statistical Council, headed by the Minister for Planning and comprising representatives of various ministries, was responsible for overall planning and policy guidance in respect of statistical programmes in the country. The Council was assisted by various technical committees.

22. The existing statistical system in Bhutan was a partially decentralized one, the Statistics Division of the Planning Commission being the main statistical organization. In addition to data collection, the Statistics Division was responsible for co-ordination of all statistical activities, for providing

/technical

technical guidance on the statistical activities of other departments and for preparing and issuing statistical publications. Efforts were being made to institutionalize statistical activities in the individual departments and organizations and statistical personnel had been attached to some district headquarters. The Government of Bhutan planned to introduce computer facilities in the near future.

23. The State Statistical Bureau was in charge of organizing and directing statistical work throughout China. The local statistical bureaus at various levels were under the dual leadership of local governments at the same level and of statistical bureaux at a higher level, with the latter guiding statistical activities. The number of employees of statistical bureaus at and above the county level was decided on by the State Council, and the central government funded statistical surveys throughout the country. With the information collected by the statistical bureaux and supplied by other government departments which collected data for their own specialized requirements, statistical bureaux gathered major statistical data on economic and social development, compiled balance tables of the national economy and issued summary statistical data relating to all sectors of the economy. The use of computers in processing statistical data in China was a recent development. With the support of the United Nations, all statistical bureaux at provincial level (except Tibet) had started to install computers to some extent.

24. India had a decentralized statistical system with a division of responsibilities between the centre and the states and a further division of responsibilities between central ministries and state government departments. The Central Statistical Organization at the centre and the Directorates of Economics and Statistics in the states were the focal points for co-ordination. In each district there was also a statistical office. Manual recording of data continued to be the main means for capture of primary data. India had made substantial progress in the development of small-area statistics which had been equated with the development of a statistical base to cater to the needs of block-level planning. The data concerning newly-emerging areas of concern such as energy, water and land resources, and the environment, had been identified and efforts were being made to organize collection of data in those areas. Since computerization found ready acceptance in India, computers had been installed in a number of departments and agencies in the centre as well as in the states. Data networks were a new type of infrastructure linked with advances in telecommunication and computer networks, and India was planning the development of a number of such data networks. With a view to cutting down printing delays,

/there was

there was a plan to acquire microprocessor-based offset printing facilities incorporating electronic type-setting.

25. The statistical system in the Islamic Republic of Iran was decentralized. The Statistical Centre of Iran was the central organization responsible for producing data required by the country. The Centre now had a central office where the statistical plans required at national level were prepared. The Centre was responsible for conducting major censuses, various sample surveys on socio-economic aspects, processing of data and dissemination of data through periodic reports. The Centre was also responsible for standardization of the concepts, definitions and methodologies used by various agencies engaged in data collection. The other government organizations engaged in data collection in various other fields, and their processing and dissemination, were the Central Bank (Bank Markazi), the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, and the Ministry of Agriculture.

26. At the central level, the Statistical Centre of State of the Lao People's Democratic Republic was responsible for the direction of statistical work in the whole of the country according to centralized principles, as well as for the collection and processing of data in various fields of statistics. Several ministries and agencies had statistical divisions for data collection and preparation of statistical reports, and all statistical work in those divisions was managed under the direction of the Statistical Centre. At the provincial level, there were units in planning divisions that also worked under the direction of the Centre as regards statistical work. Those units were responsible for the collection of data on the economic situation in the provinces, and for processing and submitting reports to the Centre. The Centre was now preparing for the first historical general population census to be conducted in 1985.

27. The statistical system in Malaysia was largely centralized and the Department of Statistics was responsible for all major data collections at the national level. There were statistical units in several ministries and departments which collected and processed data for their own use. The Department of Statistics was responsible for collecting statistical data in various subject-matter fields, conducting censuses and sample surveys, processing data through its own computer system, preparing estimates of national accounts, and disseminating data through periodic reports. Generally all positions of statisticians in other ministries and departments were filled by professional staff from the national statistical service which was headed by the Chief Statistician, who was also the Head of the Department of Statistics.

28. The statistical system of Mongolia was centralized; the centralized guidance of the activities of state statistical bodies, as well as accounting and statistical activities in the country, was carried out by the Central Statistical Board of the Mongolian People's Republic. The major activities of state statistical bodies consisted of collection and compilation of statistical information and its dissemination, analysis of statistical information, establishment of the automated system of state statistics with the application of mathematical models and computer technology, and methodological research. During the second half of 1984, workers in the fields of accounting and statistics would be celebrating the sixtieth anniversary of the establishment of the statistical service of Mongolia.

29. Nepal had a decentralized system of data collection. The Central Bureau of Statistics was responsible for co-ordination and standardization of data collected by various agencies. Besides the above functions, the Central Bureau of Statistics was responsible for conducting major censuses, demographic sample surveys and surveys of cottage industries, preparation of national accounts estimates, and analysis of statistical data and its dissemination. Processing of the bulk of the data was carried out at the National Computer Centre. However, there were a large number of microcomputers in use in various organizations. Other statistics were collected by the administrative agencies concerned, for example, foreign trade statistics were compiled by the Department of Customs and Trade Promotion, agricultural statistics by the Department of Food and Agricultural Marketing Services, and so on.

30. The statistical system of the Philippines was a decentralized one with a central co-ordinating body. The Statistical Co-ordination Office of the development planning authority, assisted by the Statistical Advisory Board and a number of interagency committees, was responsible for co-ordination of statistical activities. The premier operating statistical agency was the National Census and Statistics Office which conducted all the censuses and large-scale household and establishment surveys for the collection of general socio-economic statistics. The National Census and Statistics Office had established a strong computerized data processing system. One of the latest and most important developments was the recent institutionalization of a system of economic and social indicators. The system had been initiated in 1978 and was designed to monitor and measure the degree of attainment of various goals and targets set forth in the medium-term development plan.

31. The current statistical system in the Republic of Korea was decentralized. Responsibility for data collection rested with various central,

local or provincial government agencies, and with certain non-government agencies. The functions of co-ordination and standardization of the statistical activities of the various data-collecting agencies were carried out by the Statistical Council and the Statistical Sub-Committee of the policy-making Advisory Committee of the Economic Planning Board through the National Bureau of Statistics. That Bureau also undertook data collection, and processed data collected by the Bureau itself and by other agencies. A computer centre organized to computerize the government's administrative work undertook processing of data for several ministries and government agencies. While dissemination of statistical information rested with the various data-collecting agencies, the Bureau played a major role through its co-ordination and standardization function.

32. The Department of Census and Statistics in Sri Lanka was the main authority responsible for the principal statistical activities and was the main source of statistical information. In addition to its activities relating to data gathering and processing and dissemination of statistical information, the Department was responsible for statistical co-ordination and standards and for providing technical guidance to other ministries, departments and agencies undertaking statistical activities. Sri Lanka was in the process of developing a data bank with the objective of providing reliable information at the village level. The Department had established a computerized data processing system. The National Household Survey Capability Programme (NHSCP) had been accepted as the chief mechanism for collecting information needed by the Government for its national development plans, policies and programmes.

33. Thailand had a decentralized statistical system with the National Statistical Office of Thailand, however, carrying out the functions of data gathering, processing and dissemination of statistical information in a large number of fields. The National Statistical Office had the responsibility of conducting censuses and socio-economic sample surveys and of planning, co-ordinating, giving guidance and directing the technical aspects of all statistical projects and activities of the government. There were a few other major statistical units under other government agencies which undertook large statistical projects; those were formulated and organized through close co-operation with the National Statistical Office with regard to survey methodology and data processing. The Office had established a computerized data processing system with a subunit in the Data Processing Center of Thailand.

34. The Seminar noted that under various other items of the agenda a number of useful suggestions had been made relating to the organization of statistical work. Those included the relationships between statisticians and planners,

/and

and measures to improve interaction between statisticians and EDP personnel, as well as to retain the latter. The discussion of country papers, however, provided a further opportunity for a consensus to emerge on certain important issues.

35. The Seminar considered the issue of the effectiveness of centralized and decentralized statistical systems. It recognized that most systems in developing countries of the ESCAP region were a combination of the two. The view of the Seminar was that although in countries undertaking a limited amount of statistical activity a centralized system would yield effective results, in countries with large amounts of statistical activity a decentralized system of data collection might be more effective. That was particularly so in the wake of a changing environment where more and more data, involving a large extent of disaggregation, were being demanded for planning purposes. Decentralization, however, heightened the importance of co-ordination and standardization of statistical activities. The Seminar concluded that co-ordination could be most effectively ensured through budgetary controls.

36. So far as data processing was concerned, in countries with limited resources and statistical activities it was suggested that a centralized system where costly electronic equipment was used would be most cost-effective. However, the advent of moderately priced microcomputers meant that in countries where a considerable amount of disaggregated data was required, a partial decentralization of data processing by installing microcomputers at subnational levels could yield greater effectiveness.

37. The Seminar also discussed the problem of non-response, which in some countries of the region was 60 per cent or higher for certain data collections. It was recognized that publication of survey results with that degree of non-response could undermine the credibility of the national statistical office, and that statistical legislation making response mandatory was rarely if ever resorted to in practice. The problem was a persistent one, and the Seminar concluded that no solution appeared in sight other than extensive and determined follow-up work by field personnel and vigorous publicity to improve the response rate to a satisfactory level.

/IV.

IV. EMERGING STATISTICAL NEEDS THROUGH TECHNOLOGICAL CHANGES

(Item 6 of the agenda)

38. The Seminar had before it two documents for consideration under item 6 the first entitled "Training of personnel in the field of modern data processing technology" (STAT/SWCE/2), presented by Mrs. N. Ya. Panferova of the Central Statistical Board, USSR, and the second entitled "Responding to a changing environment at the international level: case study of the United Nations Statistical Office" (STAT/SWCE/3), presented by a representative of the United Nations Statistical Office.

39. The first document described the system in effect in the USSR for training and upgrading personnel, with a prominent role being played by institutions of higher learning, specialized secondary education, other department-run systems and educational establishments of the Central Statistical Board's Main Directorate for Training and Upgrading Statistical Personnel. The paper concentrated on the role of the Main Directorate, which was an independent self-financing organization directly responsible to the Board. It supervised the training and upgrading of accounts clerks and operators of mechanized accounting equipment, as well as the upgrading of employees of state statistical agencies.

40. The many training complexes and schools of the Main Directorate specialized in areas such as book-keeping, operation and maintenance of computer hardware, designing and operation of automatic control systems and so on. A system of upgrading through refresher courses enabled a broad cross-section of managerial and specialist personnel to be kept up to date on the latest developments in their field, including progress in data processing technology and the introduction of new computer hardware.

41. The paper provided information on a number of courses offered, described the teaching methods used and indicated an emphasis on constant upgrading of teachers themselves. The paper also indicated that the Central Statistical Board provided assistance in vocational training and upgrading systems to a number of foreign countries. That normally involved the holding of consultations, the conduct in the USSR of upgrading courses on a contract basis, the transfer of textbooks and manuals to foreign statistical agencies for the setting up of courses, and the secondment of teachers to foreign countries.

42. The Seminar was informed that it was a requirement in the Central Statistical Board for senior staff, both experts and administrators, to upgrade

/their

their qualifications every six years. That was achieved through the Main Directorate for Training and Upgrading Statistical Personnel, or through other institutions such as the Moscow Institute of Economics and Statistics. The point was made that while refresher programmes were very useful, some developing countries found it difficult to release their senior staff for such courses because of the shortage of qualified back-up staff to cover the senior persons' absence.

43. In response to a question concerning correlating training programmes with job availability and with future employment of graduates of the Main Directorate, it was stated that planning of manpower needs was undertaken in advance so that the Main Directorate and other institutes knew the requirements of the ministries and other organizations. It trained staff from the Central Statistical Board and other organizations and they returned to employment in those organizations. Unqualified young people who were trained through the Main Directorate were assisted by it to find a position.

44. Many participants indicated that a shortage of computer programmers, systems analysts and other computer-related staff was a serious problem for the national statistical service. Such staff left the national statistical office for other government bodies, for the private sector or to work overseas. In all cases, that was disruptive of the statistical programme. Some countries were trying to solve the problem through bonding of staff to work for a period of years after receiving training, by offering flexible working hours, by permitting computer staff to receive additional income for contractual work, by training statisticians in all aspects of data processing (and vice versa) and by developing computer programme packages that could easily be used by statisticians. It was concluded that augmentation of facilities in all aspects of computerization of data training was clearly an important element of the solution to the problem.

45. The participants exchanged experiences about recruitment processes for national statistical services involving interviews, examinations, reviews of academic qualifications, previous work experience and performance. The Seminar also noted the use of performance evaluations at various stages of career development of the personnel of national statistical services, and in one instance of periodic examinations.

46. The second paper, prepared by the United Nations Statistical Office, described its responsibilities, the world-wide organizational network within which it functioned and the set of intergovernmental policy-making committees whose

decisions determined the economic and social activities of the United Nations, including statistical activities. The paper also described the resources and internal organization structure of the United Nations Statistical Office and the systems for access to essential services that supported its functioning, including computer-related services and printing and publishing services.

47. The paper identified and discussed the pressures for change in international statistical activities in recent years, including (a) examples of intergovernmental policy decisions on development decades and special years and plans of action for specific economic or social activities or population groups of concern to the international community; (b) reconfirmed concentration on improving basic statistical capabilities in countries as the objective of technical co-operation; (c) changes in available technology for processing statistics and disseminating outputs; and (d) changes in country needs, priorities and capacity to absorb and respond to international statistical development. Intensified concern for cost-effectiveness as United Nations budgets had come under pressure had also produced pressure for change in the programmes and methods of the United Nations Statistical Office. The actual changes in the Office's activities, structure and methods in response to the above and other pressures for change were described.

48. The paper also considered the practical limitations to responding to a changing environment and the special actions that had been taken and support obtained from a variety of sources to achieve responsiveness to date.

49. The paper concluded with a consideration of whether the problems in the development of statistics in response to changing conditions for an international statistical organization were basically different from those for a national organization. Changes at the international level could represent a change in the environment for the national offices in terms of placing additional demands on national offices, and influencing the time frame for development at the national level, for example, for introduction of new classifications, definitions, and base years for indexes. Changes at the national level also had an impact on the international statistical organizations, reflecting the fact that national and international statistical organizations in many ways comprised an overall world statistical system.

/50.

50. The participants commented that the United Nations Statistical Office paper was most relevant to the objectives of the Seminar and they welcomed the achievements and current efforts of the Office to identify and respond to changes in the environment at the international and national levels. The usefulness of the Office's statistics was emphasized, especially in providing internationally comparable figures. The large increase in the number of countries and the range of statistical series published was welcomed.

51. The comment was made that even more needed to be done at the international level to identify and analyse changes in country needs and to develop an overall programme to meet those needs. By contrast, it was suggested that there were many demands for new data and that before embarking on new activities, resources needed to be assessed to ensure that enough were available to meet the additional demands.

52. The Seminar noted similarities in the experience of the United States Bureau of the Census and the United Nations Statistical Office in trying to introduce changes under conditions of resource constraints. The Bureau had sought and obtained additional funding from users of statistics, including other government departments and the private sector, to allow new work to be undertaken.

53. Identifying user needs was described in the paper as a major and difficult concern. The comment was made that users should be expected to articulate their needs better. The Seminar was informed that one method of helping to identify user needs and improve responsiveness to them was to set up advisory boards with major user groups, which provided an input into the statistical work programme.

54. It was noted that one of the changes in international statistical collection in recent years had been the use of shared questionnaires by several international organizations, aimed at reducing the reporting burden on countries. The Seminar was informed that that system was working effectively, for example in the fields of national accounts where the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and the United Nations Statistical Office were using the same questionnaires, and in energy statistics, where the Statistical Office was using data collected by ECE.

55. The Seminar noted that while a satellite link existed between New York and Geneva, it was not used extensively for statistical work as a real need did not currently exist. However, it was utilized for the transmission of urgently needed statistical information.

/56.

56. The Seminar was given details of an example (in the field of price statistics) where non-availability of data in countries had caused a change in a project of the United Nations Statistical Office to collect and publish those data in an annual publication. However, the limited data collected from about 30 countries were being published in the Monthly Bulletin of Statistics and the Office intended to revert to the subject with an improved questionnaire.

57. Several participants requested details about the Statistical Office's programmes on environment statistics and on social statistics and indicators. The Seminar was informed that the Statistical Office's work on environment statistics was closely co-ordinated with that of ECE. The work was currently focused on methodological matters but also included an assessment of the availability of statistics at the national level on the environmental aspects of fresh water, human settlements and energy, with a view to possible collection and publication of those statistics. It was, however, too early to give any estimates of staff and resource needs to collect and publish environment statistics at the international level. The Seminar was also informed that the Statistical Office's work on the status of women, youth, disabled persons, and crime statistics were at the early stages of research and methodological study, although a data base on statistics on the status of women was being assembled and a statistical publication on that subject would be issued in 1985.

58. The Seminar noted that there were well-developed, relatively uniform concepts and methods in economic statistics but those were less developed in the case of social statistics generally, and in environment statistics. The need for norms in areas such as the environment, poverty, nutrition and literacy was mentioned. The difficulty of setting such norms was recognized and it was felt that in relation to poverty they were a national matter. The Seminar noted the work done in India on defining poverty as well as ESCAP's plan to hold a meeting in 1985 on the subject of statistics of poverty and income distribution.

/V.

V. INTERRELATIONSHIP BETWEEN NATIONAL STATISTICAL OFFICES, PLANNING BODIES AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

(Item 7 of the agenda)

59. The paper entitled "Interrelation between national statistical boards, planning bodies and other organizations" (STAT/SWCE/4), by Mr. I. Ya. Matyukcha, was considered under item 7. The document summarized the close and regular relationships between the statistical, governmental, planning and economic bodies of the USSR, at all levels of administrative management from the centre down to the district bodies. As the Seminar had noted earlier, the entire statistical system of the USSR functioned in accordance with a single centralized plan, having standard forms, indicators and reporting systems. That made it easier and more efficient for the Central Statistical Board to carry out its vital function of reporting to the government on the implementation of overall development plans. The latter included five-year and annual plans, as well as longer-term targets.

60. Diversified statistical information was being submitted to planning agencies on a regular basis in various forms. The paper outlined the major types of indicators of economic growth and social welfare involved, and it was stressed that the type and volume of information provided was agreed on by the Central Statistical Board and the planning agencies. The Board took an active role in advising the planners on what information might be needed. Some 50 pages of text and tables were furnished monthly, covering only the major indicators; on an annual basis, certain comparative data with other countries were being provided; special statistical bulletins covering crucial goods such as textiles, and early warning information on situations of emerging concern were also submitted. The Board made every effort to make the indicators as meaningful to the government as possible, rather than empty figures, and in its various reports analysed the reasons for under- or over-fulfilment of plans.

61. The links between statistical and planning agencies in the USSR were strengthened by the fact that data collected by the Central Statistical Board and its various subsidiary bodies formed the basis for the preparation of future five-year and other plans. Statistical bodies at the union and republic levels took part in the revision of drafts of the respective plans, appraising them from the viewpoints of feasibility and internal consistency. That was one example of the general role of statistical bodies in assisting the government to ensure the proper functioning of the national economy.

62. In posing questions to Mr. Matyukcha, participants concentrated on the relationship between the statistical information collected by the Central Statistical Board and that gathered by ministries and departments. It was explained that efforts were made to reduce to a minimum duplication between those sets of data. The ministries needed operational and technological information from enterprises under their control in their efforts to monitor and fulfil plan targets in their particular sector, whereas the Board's information on that sector would be more in the nature of summary statistics. There was regular dialogue between the Board and ministries concerning accounting practices and choice of indicators as well as on the figures themselves. Because of the Board's objectivity, the Government generally used exclusively the information it provided.

63. It was pointed out that the interrelationships between statistical and planning agencies were very close and well-articulated in the USSR whereas that situation did not prevail in several of the developing countries represented at the Seminar. At the same time, it was recognized that interaction between statistical and planning bodies was vital. Among the issues that were cited as currently affecting statisticians in a number of developing countries were the following:

(a) Planners and policy makers were rather unhappy at the non-furnishing of information, and were making demands for data, for example, on income distribution, in excess of the statisticians' capacity to supply them. At the same time, planners generally failed to realize the high costs of collecting statistics, or to give the necessary support to budgetary requests from statistical agencies.

(b) Because planners were impatient to obtain data that statisticians could not supply, they had started to carry out their own surveys, leading to a proliferation of statistical activity. In such a situation there appeared to be a case, especially in decentralized statistical systems, for a co-ordinating body that would circumscribe the right of government agencies to collect statistical data without prior permission.

(c) As for closer and meaningful interaction between statisticians and planners, statisticians in some countries were starting to expand their role from mere data provision to analysis, interpretation and forecasting. However, planners tended to make ad hoc demands for data, whereas statisticians would benefit if data requirements were articulated in advance. It was felt that the outposting of statisticians in planning ministries and, similarly, the outposting

/of statisticians

of planners in national statistical offices for some specified duration, would help remedy that situation. The planners would also be able to realize the expense involved in data collection.

(d) Most national statistical agencies possessed a wealth of data, but sometimes failed to disseminate relevant information in time to the users, that is, planners and decision makers. Statisticians needed to develop a capability to provide "defensible estimates" quickly while awaiting the final figures.

64. The Seminar was informed that the ESCAP secretariat had also identified the above issues as among those of great topical interest to many developing countries of the region. A number of meetings in the secretariat's work programme were designed to address those problems. Participants recognized, however, that it would be difficult to arrive at definite conclusions on all the issues raised within the context of the Seminar.

VI. ORGANIZATION OF AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS
(Item 8 of the agenda)

65. The item was discussed on the basis of the document entitled "Organization of agricultural statistics in the USSR" (STAT/SWCE/5), presented by Mr. L.I. Vaschukov. The paper dealt with the history and organization of agricultural statistics in the USSR, and the existing structure of statistical bodies working in that field. Although agricultural statistics were organized along centralized lines, they were needed mostly at the local level and hence enjoyed a certain degree of flexibility at that level which helped in taking decisions.

66. In describing the main tasks of agricultural statistics at the present time, the paper emphasized the investigation of the interrelations between agriculture and the various branches of the agro-industrial complex. The units of statistical observation included agricultural purchasing, processing, trading and servicing units and some 35 million household plots, as well as the large-scale collective and state farms. Reporting of agricultural statistics was obligatory for enterprises and collective and state farms, and operational reports (containing relatively small amounts of information) were sent to the Central Statistical Board within a very short time via telephone, telex etc. Data tabulation and analysis methods were also described. For detailed and comprehensive data, agricultural and livestock censuses were indispensable, while sampling was widely used to estimate the agricultural production of households.

67. In responding to participants' questions, Mr. Vaschukov stated that only objective mathematical techniques were used in crop forecasting, and remote sensing devices were not being employed for that purpose. The very rapid processing of operational data was facilitated by the use of special statistical forms, specific telegraphic codes and relatively small computers - annual data were processed on mainframe machines. Agricultural statisticians in the USSR were continuing research on certain problems, for example, in the development of capital/output norms.

68. More general issues on agricultural statistics raised by participants included the difficulty of valuing own account consumption of agricultural produce, although it was agreed that that problem had more to do with household income and expenditure surveys. The valuation of certain agricultural inputs, which was needed for national accounts purposes, could be very difficult, especially for smallholdings. It was observed that in some instances production estimates represented an even more pressing need, resort sometimes being made to data on exports. Inter-agency co-operation in conducting agricultural surveys, which in the USSR was achieved through orders issued jointly by the Central Statistical Board and the Ministry of Agriculture, was a serious problem in some countries, with the national statistical agency occasionally being unaware of agricultural surveys undertaken. Timeliness in producing agricultural statistics was also cited as a major problem.

VII. METHODS USED TO ENSURE THE RELIABILITY OF STATISTICAL DATA

(Item 9 of the agenda)

69. The Seminar considered a paper on the above subject (STAT/SWCE/6), presented by Mrs. M.V. Nalimova. The document recalled that statistics in the USSR played a major role in planned economic management and that the Government relied in its activity on the data supplied by State statistical bodies. Thus it was imperative that those data were thoroughly checked and reliable. Ensuring reliability was ultimately the responsibility of the Central Statistical Board and its subsidiary bodies, which utilized uniform principles and methodology in the collection and reporting of data.

70. Timeliness and accuracy of reporting depended initially on the quality of the initial accounting, and the various forms used in that connection were described. Information received from enterprises by statistical bodies was

subject to checks for both arithmetic and logical consistency, which were carried out by specialized economists. Methods used to improve the accuracy of reporting included consultations and seminars with accounting specialists of enterprises, collective farms, government departments etc; the addressing of instructional letters to enterprises and organizations; moral and material incentives to bodies and individuals for exemplary performance; and disciplinary measures such as reprimands, reduced bonuses, fines, moral censure, and possibly criminal prosecution.

71. Statistical bodies also informed departments and ministries on the reliability of data reported by the enterprises and organizations they ran. Joint comprehensive check-ups by the statistical bodies and sectoral ministries concerned were particularly effective as they drew on different types of expertise. Statistical bodies also co-operated with public auditors' groups in improving accounting practices and strengthening reporting discipline. In recent years, statistical bodies had also been supervising large-scale check-ups on territories (districts and cities), chosen on the basis of the reliability of their data. Check-ups of all types, including those at the enterprise and at the ministerial level, had to contain proposals to remedy the shortcomings and distortions exposed. State statistical bodies made use of the media to publicize uncorrected distortions as well as to promote improved accounting and reporting practices.

72. In responding to participants' questions, Mrs. Nalimova confirmed that if a sample check-up revealed errors in a census, the data would be amended and corrected information sent to the original recipients. It was pointed out that bonuses and incentives for good performance were not restricted to the field of statistics. As to the number of persons involved in check-up work, it was explained that there were no special units responsible, either at the central or lower levels; rather, the work of checking was generally handled on an industry basis, by the relevant specialized statisticians.

VIII. SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC SURVEYS IN THE USSR
(Item 10 of the agenda)

73. The item was discussed on the basis of the document entitled "Sample socio-economic surveys in the USSR" (STAT/SWCE/7, presented by Mr. D.I. Dumnov. In the paper it was noted that in the USSR wide use was made of sample surveys, for which a number of basic requirements, such as a sufficiently representative sample, had to be met. The aims of a particular sample survey had to be clearly formulated, and special attention paid to sampling techniques and to the anticipation of possible problems.

74. Sampling was being extensively used in various branches of statistics, especially in the fields of agriculture, social affairs, public health and culture. It had also been used in conjunction with the 1979 population census, and a major intercensal sample survey was scheduled for January 1985. The document concentrated, however, on family budget and income surveys, which now covered 62,000 families on a fully voluntary basis and were carried out on a monthly basis throughout the year. Statisticians collected family budget data through direct confidential questioning of family members and examination of specially-designed income and expenditure diaries filled in by participating families; such a method had been gaining recognition outside the USSR.

75. The selection of families for budget surveys was a two-stage process, ensuring a representative sample of workers (and pensioners) of industrial enterprises, offices and collective farms. Average wages of the sampled families had to correspond roughly to average wages in the respective industries. Some 2,500 indicators were derived from budget surveys and stress was laid on the balancing of certain indicators (for example, spending and income) to check the reliability of the data.

76. The USSR was also conducting, each March, sample time budget surveys to derive statistics of time use. Broad variations had been found between the time use of men and women, of urban and rural populations, and between the USSR and Finland. A report on time-use surveys had recently been sent to the United Nations Statistical Office. In those and other, single-time, sample surveys, use was being made of the sample frame of 62,000 families used for budget statistics.

77. In responding to participants' questions, Mr. Dumnov stated that 10 per cent of each budget survey sample selected had to be replaced, because workers had inter alia left the enterprise in question, or moved elsewhere, or failed to co-operate. Each departing family was replaced by another with as similar as possible demographic characteristics. As to the initial selection of sample families, after a particular factory or farm had been chosen, every fiftieth worker was selected; a meeting was called to explain what participation in the survey entailed, and there was an opportunity for families to withdraw from it. The point was made that the exclusion of non-co-operating families could introduce a bias when the budget survey sample frame was used for surveys involving public opinion.

/78.

78. About one third of the 2,500 indicators in the budget survey were checked each month. Many republics within the USSR translated the survey forms into local languages. It was noted that while alcoholic beverages were covered in the family budget surveys, the time spent consuming them did not always show up correspondingly in time-use studies.

IX. PROVISION OF THE LOCAL ADMINISTRATIVE BODIES WITH STATISTICAL INFORMATION USING MODERN TECHNIQUES OF DATA COLLECTION AND PROCESSING

(Item 11 of the agenda)

79. The item was considered on the basis of a paper entitled "Provision of top management bodies of the Byelorussian SSR with statistical information using modern methods of data collection and processing" (STAT/SWCE/8), presented by Mr. V.N. Nichiporovich. He briefly described the history and economic and social development of the Byelorussian SSR. Its Central Statistical Board comprised inter alia its central offices, the statistical boards of the Republic's regions and of the city of Minsk, statistical inspectorates in districts and towns, and computer centres and other institutions. Paralleling functions at the Union level, the Board in the Byelorussian SSR monitored performance in relation to plans in all spheres of production; its relations with governmental, planning and economic bodies were also analogous to those at the central level. The general statistical methodology developed by the Central Statistical Board of the USSR was followed, but was complemented by various types of information of special relevance to local conditions.

80. The paper described information flows and reporting frequencies within the republic, along with the organization of statistical data collection, processing and dissemination. As the major volume of data collected was processed during the first five days of each month, the computer centres of the Byelorussian Board system were able to sell time to other organizations and ministries. The report also dealt with the problems of personnel training and upgrading of both the computing network and the statistical system of the Byelorussian SSR.

81. Special attention was being paid to obtaining data on the production of households, employing in part the system of budget surveys described earlier at the Seminar. Censuses of population, cattle, machine tools etc., were other important items of the Board's work. The Board worked very closely with the republic's planning bodies, but enjoyed a certain degree of autonomy; there

/were

were occasional differences of opinion between statisticians and planners, for example, in evolving estimates of economic development.

82. In responding to participants' questions, Mr. Nichiporovich explained that software protection and other systems prevented unauthorized access to confidential statistical information by outside users of the Board's computer facilities. Family budget data produced certain difficulties because some information on the private sector was inevitably missed in surveys, but the discrepancies were only of the order of 5 per cent. It was noted that while Byelorussia and other republics enacted their own statistical legislation, it was modelled on that regulating the Central Statistical Board of the USSR and differed mainly in relation to operative information, for example, to reflect different crops produced in various areas.

83. The Byelorussian Board estimated the national income of the Republic, using the same methodology as the Central Statistical Board of the USSR, and constructed an input-output table every five years. In that context, it was stated that data were available from agencies dealing with goods imported to and exported from the Republic, while the marketing of products was done centrally rather than at the republic level. The Byelorussian Board's work in the fields of education and environment statistics was also elaborated on. Although the Byelorussian economy had expanded rapidly and new industries and products had generated demands for new data, that had not necessarily entailed a larger volume of information. The Board was constantly reviewing and simplifying accounting forms and had reduced the number of economic indicators by 25 per cent, deleting those which had lost their utility in the current context. Also, owing to the increased use of computers, the Board had not found the necessity to augment the number of its personnel.

X. AUTOMATED PROCESSING OF STATISTICAL INFORMATION UNDER PRESENT CONDITIONS

(Item 12 of the agenda)

84. The Seminar considered the document entitled "Organization of information collection and processing by the USSR state statistical agencies under modern conditions" (STAT/SWCE/9), prepared by Mr. S.N. Bushev and Mr. A.P. Maslyanenko. The complex computational network of the Central Statistical Board of the USSR, which comprised computer centres or stations at the union, republic, regional and district levels was described in the paper. The collection and processing of

/statistical

statistical information were organized on the basis of the automated system of state statistics, which was currently being set up.

85. The automated system had two types of subsystem functional and support. The first included both branch functional subsystems concerned with individual economic sectors and industries, and inter-branch subsystems dealing with input-output tables, statistics of finances and prices, and so on. Support subsystems of the automated system included information and programme (software) support, as well as two more complex support systems, the Automated Data Bank and the System of Telemetric Processing of Statistical Information.

86. Within the automated system, the standardization of primary statistical documents helped avoid the duplication of information, while 14 national standard classifications were used in statistical reporting. The technological base of the automated system was versatile in terms of its purpose, as it was designed not only to handle statistical problems, but also to process a large volume of non-statistical information for enterprises and ministries with no computer base of their own. Three main technologies were used for the computerized processing of statistical data: decentralized technology for the processing of voluminous, mailed returns of a regular, relatively non-urgent nature; centralized technology for the processing of large ad hoc surveys; and a combination of the two for the processing of report forms with limited amounts of urgent information.

87. The Seminar noted that the versatility and complexity of the automated system made the unifying elements such as standard reporting forms and classifications essential. The fact that verification of data was carried out as close as possible to the reporting unit was felt to be a sound feature of the system. In responding to participants' questions, Mr. Bushev explained that the capacity of the Central Statistical Board's computer system had been designed from the start to cope with peak statistical workloads; hence for much of the time spare capacity existed for contractual work for other organizations. Occasionally overall demand for programming resources outstripped supply, particularly because similar programmes had to be written for several different types of computer. Software was produced for the small number of imported machines as well as for domestically-manufactured computers. Maintenance was handled in a centralized fashion.

88. It was noted that about half the districts in the USSR were equipped with mini- or microcomputers. Mainframe machines were confined to the regional and higher levels. While there were direct connections between some computers, that work had not yet been completed. In processing a large survey, the time-lag in publishing the results would normally be around one month, but could be longer.

89. The Seminar observed that in at least one developing country of the ESCAP region, while hardware and software were under the control of the statistical system, computer personnel belonged to another organization. That posed a number of difficulties for the statistician, including obstacles in designing and amending questionnaires. The problem was less acute in the USSR, as the computer and statistical systems were integrated. The Seminar concluded that EDP specialists and statisticians could not remain in watertight compartments, and it reiterated that training of statistical personnel in computer programming and vice versa was a prerequisite for overcoming that problem.

XI. ORGANIZATION OF ENVIRONMENT STATISTICS

(Item 13 of the agenda)

90. Under item 13, the Seminar considered the paper entitled "Organization of ervironmental statistics under modern conditions" (STAT/SWCE/10), presented by Mr. A.I. Krakovsky. The paper noted that the problem of protecting the environment had become more and more acute over the past decade; along with many other countries, the USSR had enacted a number of laws governing the use of land and water resources, the prevention of pollution and the protection of wildlife, as well as special decrees covering major resource areas.

91. The organization of statistical information on the environment in the USSR shared many of the characteristics of statistics in other fields, including the use of data to monitor implementation of the State's environmental plans. It was stressed that the environmental information collected by the Central Statistical Board at its various levels flowed horizontally to the relevant decision-making bodies at each level, as well as vertically. Relevant statistics were also collected and processed by certain ministries and departments, such as those of land reclamation and water economy, agriculture, fisheries and so on; generally those data were transmitted to the Board for further processing and summarization. The Board had developed a set of eight indicators relating to natural resources and the environment, basing them on the most important

current ecological issues. Apart from figures relating to water resources, the atmosphere, land utilization, forests and nature preserves, the indicators included expenditures on environmental protection measures and facilities, which currently exceeded eight billion roubles annually.

92. In answering participations' questions, Mr. Krakovsky explained that data on air pollution and noise pollution were gathered, although not always on standard forms. The Seminar was informed that many of the environmental laws passed by the Government of the USSR stemmed from the recommendations of the first United Nations Conference on the Human Environment held at Stockholm in 1972, but it was not possible to say how many of that Conference's recommendations had been implemented. Similarly, it was difficult to give exact costs of alternative means of disposing of industrial and household wastes, although a number of new methods were currently under study.

93. The Seminar noted that the environment was a multidisciplinary field in which interaction between statisticians and a wide range of scientific specialists was inevitable if environmental data were to be collected and analysed effectively. It was suggested that statisticians had a particular role to play in designing a framework for organizing statistics relating to the environment, and in determining various norms, for example, on air and water pollution, which would help countries to strike an ecological balance.

XII. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT
(Item 14 of the agenda)

94. The Seminar adopted its report on 5 October 1984.

/Annex

Annex

LIST OF DOCUMENTS

Document No.	Title
STAT/SWCE/L.1	Provisional agenda
STAT/SWCE/1	Organization of State statistics in the USSR
STAT/SWCE/2	Training of personnel in the field of modern data processing technology
STAT/SWCE/3	Responding to a changing environment at the international level: case study of the United Nations Statistical Office
STAT/SWCE/4	Interrelation between national statistical boards, planning bodies and other organizations
STAT/SWCE/5	Organization of agricultural statistics in the USSR
STAT/SWCE/6	Methods used to ensure reliability of statistical data
STAT/SWCE/7	Sample socio-economic surveys in the USSR
STAT/SWCE/8	Provision of top management bodies of the Byelorussian SSR with statistical information using modern methods of data collection and processing
STAT/SWCE/9	Organization of information collection and processing by the USSR state statistical agencies under modern conditions
STAT/SWCE/10	Organization of environmental statistics under modern conditions

Document No.	Country papers
STAT/SWCE/CRP.1	Afghanistan
STAT/SWCE/CRP.2	Bangladesh
STAT/SWCE/CRP.3	Bhutan[a/]
STAT/SWCE/CRP.4	China - Development and improvement of China's statistical work in the recent five years
STAT/SWCE/CRP.5	India - Development of statistics in a changing organizational and technological environment
STAT/SWCE/CRP.6	Islamic Republic of Iran - A review of the statistical system in the Islamic Republic of Iran

a/ Not distributed at the Seminar.

Document No.	Country papers
STAT/SWCE/CRP.7	Lao People's Democratic Republic - A summary of statistical work in the Lao People's Democratic Republic a/
STAT/SWCE/CRP.8	Malaysia
STAT/SWCE/CRP.9	Mongolia - Statistical services in the Mongolian People's Republic
STAT/SWCE/CRP.10	Nepal
STAT/SWCE/CRP.11	Philippines - The economic and social indicator system of the Philippines
STAT/SWCE/CRP.12	Republic of Korea - The organization of statistical work in Korea
STAT/SWCE/CRP.13	Sri Lanka - Statistical organization and data collection and processing systems and problems encountered in the development of statistics in Sri Lanka
STAT/SWCE/CRP.14	Thailand - A brief description of the organization of statistical services in Thailand by the Statistical Techniques Division, National Statistical Office, Bangkok

* * * * *

STAT/SWCE/CRP.15	Information on the activities of the CMEA Standing Commission on Co-operation in Statistics

. . . . .